

Barber State Board Exam

QUICK REFERENCE CHEAT SHEET | NIC / State Board

CLIPPER GUARD SIZES

Guard #	Hair Length Left	Common Use
Guard #0 / Bare	1/16 in (bald fade line)	Outline, neckline, skin fade baseline
Guard #1	1/8 in	Very close; high and tight base
Guard #2	1/4 in	Close cut; military style; low fade
Guard #3	3/8 in	Short taper; standard short cut
Guard #4	1/2 in	Medium short; classic short on sides
Guard #5	5/8 in	Medium length; business cut
Guard #6	3/4 in	Medium; top length in many fades
Guard #7	7/8 in	Longer top; crew cut top
Guard #8	1 in	Longest standard guard; full look

SHAVING TECHNIQUE & RAZOR SAFETY

Concept	Key Point
Grain of hair	With the grain (WTG) first; across (ATG); against (XTG) for closest
Blade angle	30-degree angle to skin -- less = irritation; more = cuts
Skin stretching	Stretch skin taut for safety and close shave
Styptic pencil	Alum -- stops minor bleeding from nicks; press, do NOT wipe
Sanitation	New blade per client -- single-use disposables; no reuse
Neck strip	Fresh strip per client; prevents cross-contamination

INFECTION CONTROL & STATE BOARD REQUIREMENTS

Topic	Requirement
Disinfectant	EPA-registered hospital-grade disinfectant for tools
Contact time	Minimum 10 minutes immersion for most disinfectants
Implements	Clean and disinfect between every client
Neck strips	Single use -- new strip for each client
Razors	Single-use or properly disinfected straight razor
Hands	Wash before and after each client service
Electrical tools	Wipe with disinfectant; do NOT immerse

EXAM-DAY TIPS

- + Safety razor vs. straight razor: safety = more forgiving; straight = more control for detailing.
- + Taper vs. fade: taper uses a gradual transition; fade blends to skin (0 guard).
- + Sanitation order: clean with soap/water FIRST, then disinfect -- always in this order.
- + Infected client: decline service if open sores, contagious condition, or scalp infection present.
- + State board practical: demonstrate clean setup, sanitation, and technique -- examiner watches process.
- + Practice 1,000+ questions -> voltexam.com/apps/barber

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